St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil Sunday 9:00am Sunday 10:30am



Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration 7:00pm Mass & Confession (Reconciliation)

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

BAPTISMS RECONCILIATION FOR THE SICK MARRIAGES FUNERALS

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana 0437 884 233





THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD YEAR C 1 & 2 FEBRUARY 2025

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SELF REFLECTION: FAITHFUL EXPECTATION

This Sunday's Gospel, Luke 2:22-40 describes the presentation of Jesus in the temple and the prophecy of Simeon and Anna, two devout individuals who recognise the child as the Messiah.

- Am I living with anticipation for God's promises, even when they feel distant?
- Do I trust His timing, or do I get discouraged when things don't unfold the way I expect?
- How can I share this message of inclusivity and hope in my own life?
- Am I attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance in my life?

Lord, thank You for the example of Simeon and Anna, who faithfully awaited Your promises. Help me to be patient and trusting in Your perfect timing, even when I don't understand Your ways. May I live with anticipation and devotion, always seeking Your guidance through the Holy Spirit. Like Simeon, let me recognise Your presence in my life and share Your light with others. Strengthen my faith and help me remain steadfast in hope, knowing that Your promises are always true. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

First Reading: *Malachi 3:1-4 (JB)* A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: R. Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18 (JB)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews He had to be made like us in all things.



Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke *My eyes have seen your saving power.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and he blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

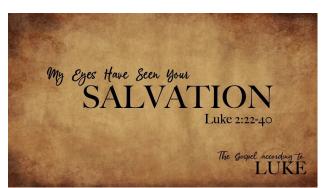
As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



"To reverence the old." Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Sunday February 2, 2025 Luke 2:22-40

In Luke 2:22-40, we encounter a pivotal moment in the life of Jesus: His presentation in the temple. Mary and Joseph, in obedience to Jewish law, bring the infant Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. There, they meet two faithful individuals—Simeon and Anna—who recognize the child as the promised Messiah. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, praises God upon seeing Jesus, declaring that he has seen the salvation of Israel, which is also a light to the Gentiles. Anna, a prophetess, also acknowledges Jesus as the one who will redeem Jerusalem and shares the news with others.

This passage highlights several key themes of the Gospel. First, it underscores God's faithfulness to His promises. Simeon's proclamation that he can now die in peace after seeing Jesus is a powerful testimony of the fulfillment of God's word. Simeon had waited for the consolation of Israel, and upon seeing Jesus, he knew that God had delivered on His promise (Luke 2:25-30). This reminds us of the importance of trusting in God's promises, even when they may take time to be fulfilled.

Second, we see the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and revealing God's plan. Simeon was "moved by the Spirit" (Luke 2:27), and Anna also was continually in the temple, praying and worshiping. Their awareness of God's presence shows the importance of staying attuned to the Holy Spirit, especially when God is doing something significant in our lives.

Another key aspect of this passage is the universal scope of salvation. Simeon's words in verse 32, "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel," reveal that Jesus' mission is not limited to the Jewish people but is for all nations. This foreshadows the expansive nature of the Gospel, which will eventually be spread to the Gentiles.

Finally, the passage shows the quiet but powerful role of women in the story of redemption, particularly through Anna, who is described as a prophetess. Her testimony, though brief, is crucial in proclaiming Jesus as the Redeemer. In a time when women's voices were often marginalized, Anna's presence highlights the inclusivity of the Gospel and God's desire to use all people to proclaim His truth.

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK FEBRUARY Readings: Heb 11:32-40. Mk 5:1-20. Monday 3 R: Let your hearts take comfort, all who hope in the Lord. St Blaise, bishop, martyr. St Ansgar, bishop. The best thing for us is not what we consider best, but what the Lord wants of us!" Readings: Heb 12:1-4. Mk 5:21-43. Tuesday 4 R: They will praise you, Lord, who long for you. "If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those Wednesday 5 Readings: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15. Mk 6:1-6. R: The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who tortured me, I would kneel and who fear him. St Agatha, virgin, martyr. kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be Thursday 6 Readings: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24. Mk 6:7-13. a Christian today." R: God, in your temple, we ponder your love. "The Lord has St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs. loved me so much: we must love everyone... St. Josephine Bakhita 1869 - 1947 Patron Saint of Sudan we must be Friday 7 Readings: Heb 13:1-8. Mk 6:14-29. compassionate!" es of St. Josep ie Bakhita February R: The Lord is my light and my salvation. Saturday 8 Readings: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21. R: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. St Jerome Emiliani. St Josephine Bakhita, virgin. Source: Ordo 2024 POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2025 For vocations to priestly and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community may welcome the desires and doubts of young people who feel called to serve Christ's mission in priestly and religious life.

THANK YOU FROM JESSIE GUIANA

A special thank you to dear Fr Michael Kelly and Paul Camilleri. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the beautiful funeral service you provided for my husband, Joe. Your words and prayers brought so much comfort to me and my family during this difficult time. The love and care you both put into the service truly honored Joe's memory, and I will always be thankful for that.

I would also like to extend my love and thanks to everyone who was there for me, offering their support and prayers. It means the world to know I am surrounded by such kind and compassionate people.

With sincere thanks and love, Jessie Guiana

REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:

CARMEL RUSSO (The late Santa Russo's daughter)





Carmel passed away on the morning of Tuesday 28 January 2025.

The funeral service will be held at St Joseph Church Enfield at 10.30am on Tuesday 4 Feb 2025.

The burial will be at around 1pm at Castle Cemetery with a wake at Canada Bay Club starting from 2pm until 4pm.

Eternal Rest grant to her O Lord, And let the Perpetual light shine upon her, May she Rest in Peace. Amen

Our prayers and thoughts are with The Russo families.

FATHER ALBERIC'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

A big thank you to everyone who helped organise Father Alberic's birthday celebration a couple of weeks ago! Your efforts made it such a memorable occasion for him, and I know he truly appreciated it.

Here's a photo from the day to cherish the wonderful moments we shared. Thank you again for all your kindness and support!



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next event for the Australian Catholic Historical Society will be held in the crypt of Saint Patrick's, Church Hill at 2:00 PM on Sunday 16 February.

The Presenter is Jeff Kildea, Barrister and Historian on the topic *Tragedy and farce: The Sister Liguori story*

Members, their guests, and visitors are most welcome and there is no charge.

Details of the programme of the ACHS as well as resources on church history are on the <u>website</u>.

Enquiries may be directed to secretaryachs@gmail.com

DRAFT ROSTER

Draft Roster is now at the Sacristy window. Please check your names.

PIETY SHOP NEWS

The Piety Shop will re-open early February!

In Our Parish

(please let us know if you would like someone added here)

We welcome into God's family, all who were recently baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, Father Alberic.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, Especially Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, Michael Swan (Therese Murphy's brother), Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry & Colleen Bennett



~ May they rest in Peace.

CATECHISTS' NEWS VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK! Our first Catechist meeting will be held this Wednesday 5th February at 10am. Teacher's This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to a few people: Manuals and student workbooks will be handed out at this meeting. I encourage all to attend, thanks. EAMON BURKE - removing of fallen tree. TYRONE ELCHAAR - helping Joe collect Classroom Management training will be held at the same time from 10am - 12:30 pm in the parish fallen branches. training room. **CAROL AVIANI** - organising Fr Alberic's birthday. SRE starting dates -Galston and Glenorie – Wednesday 19th February Your thoughtfulness and reliability mean so much, Arcadia, Hillside and Middle Dural - yet to be and we truly appreciate all the little things you do to confirmed make life easier for everyone. Thank you again! If you are free on Wednesday or Friday mornings If you know someone who deserves to be recognised as during school terms and love being with children, why next week's volunteer, please send an email to the parish. not consider joining this worthwhile ministry. Training, support and books are provided. HOLY HERITAGE A PILGRIMAGE TO THE PHILIPPINES! Catechist Vacancies: 16 February to 24 February 2025 Arcadia Public School on All are welcome to join our pilgrimage and immerse Wednesdays 12 - 12:30pm yourselves in a spiritual journey through the rich and Glenorie Public School on vibrant culture of the Philippines! Explore renowned Wednesdays 10:50am – 11:30am churches and sacred sites, guided by our chaplain, Fr Hillside Public School on David Ranson! Fridays 8:50am – 9:35am Middle Dural Public School on For inquiries: Wednesdavs 9 – 9:40am Email: philpilgrimage2025@gmail.com If you are interested please contact myself or Paula Ditas Naguit: 0405 999 510 at the parish office or any of our priests. Rene Balboa: 0413 558 836 God bless, Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com Parish Catechist Co-ordinator ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE Song of Solomon 2:1-2 - I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles, so is my **ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP** love among the young women. Paper Flowers workshop St. Benedict's Youth Group Announcement **COMMENCING FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY** Wednesday 5th February Fridays SCHOOL TERM 7.30 - 9.30pm in the meeting room Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM \$10 cash donation per participant (sorry, no card facilities this time) Ages: 8-12 years old RSVP to Martine 0458 533 250 or If you are aged 14-16 and would themakerstablesydney@gmail.com like to help out, please email the parish office. All our by Tuesday 4th Feb youth leaders have Working With Children Checks. At our first workshop for the year we will be making colourful crepe paper poppies and magnolias. Thank you, Gabe & Jules! Hope you can join us!

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.



Everyone welcome.





Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.

CRAFT GROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every Wednesday morning: after 9.30am Mass. Come and meet new people and have a cuppa! For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Feast Day: February 5



Patron Saint of breast cancer patients, martyrs, rape victims, bellfounders, and bakers Invoked against earthquakes, natural disasters, and fires

Quote:

O Lord who made and created me, and have kept me from my infancy, ... who took from me the love of the world, who have kept my body from pollution, who made me to overcome the executioner's torments, iron, fire and chains, who gave me the virtue of patience in the midst of torments, I pray Thee to receive my spirit. ~1529 Roman Breviary

Saint Agatha was born in either Palermo or Catania, Sicily around the year 231 and died a martyr's death in Catania around the year 251 during the persecution of Christians ordered by the Roman emperor Decius. Early devotion to her is attested to by the fact that she is one of the seven virgin martyrs listed in the Roman Canon (Eucharisitic Prayer I in today's Missal). Much of what is written about her life emerged centuries later, leaving its historical accuracy in question.

According to those later traditions, Agatha was born into a wealthy noble family. At the age of fifteen, she made a vow of virginity, choosing to devote herself and her wealth solely to Christ, her divine Spouse. The local Roman Prefect Quintianus's unholy desire to possess Agatha's beauty and wealth led him to propose marriage, but Agatha consistently refused him.

Capitalizing on the Emperor Decius' decree in 250 that all citizens must offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, Quintianus had Agatha arrested and threatened her with torture and death, hoping she would renounce her Catholic faith and accept his offer of marriage. Instead, she deepened her devotion to Christ and once again refused him.

Quintianus next imprisoned Agatha in the local brothel, thinking she would lose her virginity and then change her mind. Agatha, however, remained steadfast in her purity and faith.

Deeply angered, Quintianus had Agatha stretched on a rack, her flesh torn with iron hoods, burned with torches, and whipped. He then ordered that Agatha's breasts be twisted and torn and then be cut off. After being sent back to prison in this mutilated state, Agatha saw Saint Peter appear to her and miraculously heal her wounds.

When Agatha appeared before Quintianus four days later, healed of her wounds, the prefect was shocked but his heart remained obstinate. This time he stripped Agatha of her clothing and made her roll over burning coals and sharp stones. An earthquake occurred, killing two of Quintianus' companions. The people of the town were outraged at what Quintianus had done and blamed him for the earthquake. Again, Quintianus did not budge. After being sent back to prison, Agatha prayed and surrendered her spirit to the Lord, Who received her into her heavenly home.

Saint Agatha, you offered your life to Christ and were faithful to your last breath. Please pray for me, that I may be single-hearted in my fidelity to the will of God and devoted to Him above all earthly fears and evils, trusting in Him until the end. Saint Agatha, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Vox Populi 30 January 2025

In 1997, Pope St John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life.

This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord this Sunday, February 2.

Forty days after His birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for the rites of purification and dedication as prescribed by the Torah. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolising Christ who is the light of the world.

So the Presentation is a proclamation of Christ — Messiah and Priest, Lord and Savior. He is the light who came into this world to dispel sin and darkness. For this reason, traditionally at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass on this day that will be used throughout the year, hence coining the term "Candlemas."

Also on this day we thank God for the gift of the different forms of consecrated life and pray that our Church will continue to be enriched by the life and witness of consecrated men and women.

In the Church, the religious sisters, brothers, and priests stand as a rich testimony to the blessings and grace God bestows upon those who have embraced the consecrated life.

All are welcome to join Bishop Anthony on Sunday for the 9.30am Holy Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara as we pray for all those who have made commitments to the consecrated life and thank them on their special day.

May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ, reflecting His light to all peoples as they continue to respond generously and courageously to God's gift of their vocation.

Blessings, Bishop Anthony

LITURGICAL FORMATION SERIES

Throughout the year we will be hosting a number of formation opportunities for those interested and engaged in Liturgical Mininstries. Please see date claimers below:

- Saturday 15 March The Art of Celebrating Holy Week
- Saturday 10 May Back to Basics
- Saturday 16 August RCIA Practical Foundations | Liturgcal Fundamentals | Ongoing Formation
- Saturday 25 October Rekindle Our Wonder

For more information, or to register your interest, please email mission@bbcatholic.org.au

FIRST FRUITS OFFERING 2025

Our First Fruits Offering is coming in two weeks (February 2025)

God calls us to be generous with all our gifts. Stewardship means giving back to God in gratitude for all He has given us, including giving from our treasure.

Our First Fruits Offering starts two weekends from now. This program is essential to support funding our Maintenance and other special projects. Our Parishioners will hear about our plans and be asked to pray and reflect on their financial commitment to our St Benedict's Parish. The Parish Pastoral and Finance Committees will assist us with facilitating the program.

More details will be made available in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your interest in serving our Parish.

God Bless you!





Share what God has given you by joining our Planned Giving Program today.

Parish Roster PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

8/2/2025 to 9/2/2025 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	George A
Reader1	Maria G	Kath M	Leanne A
Reader2	Edyn V	Judy H	Lorna B
Prayers	Miriam B	Ann L	Eva F
τv		Mary A	Max F
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Keith W	Martina J
Music		Pauline H	Jack F
Music		Teresa G	
Morning Tea		Tania T	
FLOWERS	Gabrielle W		



Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, we really appreciate it!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St Benedict's Parish are committed to fostering a community of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, tell someone who can help. These people in our parish can help: Fr Shansana 0437 884 233 - Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882 - Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm (School holidays only open Fridays)

Parish Office: Address: Email: Website: 02 9653 2312 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159 arcadia.parish@bigpond.com www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Parish Priest: Email: After hours: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com 0437 884 233

stbenedictsarcadia

Facebook:

MONASTERY CHAPEL

Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you" Psalm 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

5.45am Office of Readings
6.30am Morning prayer - Lauds
12.45pm Midday prayer
6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers
8.00pm Night prayer - Compline

ALL are welcome to attend any time.

PARISH E-BULLETIN

The Parish is offering the Parish bulletin electronically in addition to the printed version.

If you would like to receive the bulletin by email, please send your email address to the parish office at: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Remember, the bulletin is also available weekly on the Parish website and Facebook page.



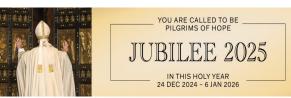


Single adults, I8-30 years of age, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for this weekend retreat of prayer, formation, and fellowship.

7-9 February 2025 St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre Douglas Park

> For more information or to register your interest, complete the form or email the Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.







MONASTERY:

02 9653 1159 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

PARISH BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations: BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141 Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: CBA—Catholic Development Fund

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